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## NEWS.

A RECENT fire in Geneva destroyed the herbarium of Professor Chodat, of the university.

A French Association des Anatomistes has recently been formed, holding its first meeting in Paris, January 5 and 6. The secretary is Professor A. Nicholas, of Nancy.

The United States Fish Commission will have \$19,200 for scientific investigation during the present year.

The eighth session of the International Geological Congress will be held in Paris, August 16-28, 1900. Circulars regarding the proposed excursions will be issued this year.

The Gray herbarium, of Harvard University, has recently purchased the collection of *Compositæ* of the late Dr. F. W. Klatt, of Hamburg. It contains about 11,000 specimens, and will probably add 60 genera and 1500 species to the Gray herbarium. The Gray herbarium previously contained about 35,000 sheets of composites.

The following state legislation in 1898 is of interest to naturalists. New Jersey provides for a state entomologist; Louisiana has passed a bill providing for the establishment of a biological station in the Gulf of Mexico, to coöperate with the United States Fish Commission for the investigation of problems affecting the fisheries of the state; New York forbids the killing at any time of wild moose, elk, caribou, and antelope; Ohio has repealed the law relative to the trapping or killing of muskrats, mink, and otter.

The Saxon government is to erect a new museum building at Dresden, and the director of the museum, Dr. A. B. Meyer, with the architect, Professor Wallot, will visit the United States this autumn for the purpose of studying the museum buildings of this country.

For some years there has been a growing feeling in England that the northern coal fields will give out, and that endeavors should be made to find coal in other parts of the island. To ascertain whether other workable beds occurred in other regions, a boring has been made at Brabourne, in Kent, which has now reached a depth of 2000 feet, and is now in lower carboniferous rocks.

An English committee has been formed to conduct the study of the region around Lake Tanganyika, in Central Africa. It is hoped that they will be able to study especially the aquatic fauna and flora of the region, as well as its geology. An appeal is now made for funds to carry out the plans, it being estimated that about \$25,000 will be needed for the purpose.

The *American Journal of Physiology* has adopted a plan, advocated for some years by Dr. Bowditch, of publishing with each number titles of the various articles on thin paper, which can be cut out and pasted on index cards. Each title is accompanied by a brief abstract of the matter recorded in the article.

At the annual election of the California Academy of Sciences, held January 3, the following officers were elected: President, William E. Ritter; 1st Vice-President, Charles H. Gilbert; 2d Vice-President, H. H. Behr; Corresponding Secretary, J. O'B. Gunn; Recording Secretary, G. P. Rixford; Treasurer, L. H. Foote; Librarian, Louis Falkenau; Director of the Museum, Charles A. Keeler; Trustees, William M. Pierson, William H. Crocker, James F. Houghton, C. E. Grunsky, George C. Perkins, George W. Dickie, E. J. Molera. The yearly report of the president, William E. Ritter, shows the past year to have been one of earnest activity in the various departments. The necessity is urged of concentrating both the efforts and the funds of the academy toward making complete the natural history collections of the state. Especial stress is laid upon the desirability of exploring the waters of the Pacific that wash the California coast. A gift of \$1000 from C. P. Huntington for the publication fund was announced.

The Academy of Sciences of Vienna has sent an expedition to South Arabia under the leadership of Count Lundberg. Professor Oskar Simony accompanies the expedition as botanist and physicist; Dr. Cossmat, geologist; and Dr. Gimley, as physician and botanist.

Trinity College, at Hartford, Conn., is to have a Natural History Hall, erected at a cost of \$40,000. The collections and laboratories are at present in cramped quarters in the basement of the main building of the college.

Dr. Ulric Dahlgren has been appointed as assistant director of the Marine Biological Laboratory at Woods Holl, as successor to the late Professor Peck.

Mr. J. G. Baker has resigned his position as director of the Kew Botanical Herbarium.

The British government has established a botanical garden and experiment station at Uganda, Central Africa, under the directorship of Alexander Whyte.

Dr. J. Gaule, professor of physiology in the University of Zürich, has resigned his position.

At a recent meeting of the Board of Management of the Marine Biological Laboratory of Canada it was resolved to proceed at once with the construction of a floating station, to be ready for occupation early in June, and for the coming summer it will be located at St. Andrews. The Board was enlarged by the addition of Dr. A. B. MacCallum, of Toronto University. The executive officers are Professor E. E. Prince, Director, and Professor D. P. Penhallow, Secretary-Treasurer.

The University of Cambridge has awarded the Walsingham medal to J. Graham Kerr for his paper on the life history of *Lepidosiren*.

Dr. O. Seydel, for some years lektor in anatomy in the University of Amsterdam, and well known for his researches on the organ of Jacobson, has resigned and has returned to Germany.

The litigation over the Nobel bequest has come to an end, and there is now about \$7,000,000 available for prizes. There will be five of these to be awarded annually, with a value of about \$40,000 each.

The University of Aberdeen has under consideration the formation of loan collections of natural history to be suitable for instruction in schools. These are to be loaned to teachers, who will use them in their classes and be responsible for their safe return. Similar collections would be of great value in certain regions of the United States, and if we remember aright the University of Illinois at one time had a similar plan under consideration, if not in actual operation.

Appointments: Dr. Angelo Andres, formerly professor of general and agricultural zoölogy in the higher agricultural school at Milan, has been called to the chair of zoölogy in the University of Parma. — R. T. Baker, curator of the Technological Museum at Sydney, New South Wales. — Elmer D. Ball, assistant entomologist in the Colorado Experiment Station. — Dr. F. J. Becker, of Prag, professor of mineralogy in the University of Vienna. — Dr. J. Behrens, bacteriologist at Berlin. — Dr. P. Berggren, professor of botany in the Uni-

versity of Lund, Sweden.—Dr. L. Böhmig, professor extraordinarius of zoölogy in the University of Graz.—Karl Brischke, director of the botanical garden at Thorn.—Dr. Capitan, professor of prehistoric anthropology at Paris.—Dr. Friedrich Dahl, assistant in the zoölogical museum in Berlin.—Dr. Dannenberg, of Aachen, professor of mineralogy and geology in the mining school at Clausthal, Germany.—Dr. Rudolf Disselhorst, professor of animal physiology in the University of Halle.—Dr. Max von Frey, professor of physiology in the University of Zürich.—Dr. Thaddeus von Garbowski, of Vienna, privat docent for zoölogy in the University of Cracow.—M. Gravier, assistant in the Museum of Natural History at Paris.—Dr. E. Hallier, of Munich, assistant in the Botanical Museum at Hamburg.—Dr. Hans Held, professor extraordinarius of anatomy in the University of Leipzig.—Mr. W. B. Hemsley, curator of the Kew Herbarium.—Dr. Hettner, of Tübingen, professor of geography in the University of Würzburg.—Dr. Casimir Kwietniewski, assistant in the museum of zoölogy and comparative anatomy of the University of Messina.—Alberto Löfgren, director of the botanical gardens at São Paulo, Brazil.—Professor D. T. MacDougal, of the University of Minnesota, director of the laboratories in the New York Botanical Garden.—Dr. A. Manrizio, assistant in botany in the Agricultural School in Berlin.—Dr. Ernst Mehnert, of Strassburg, privat docent for anatomy in the University of Halle.—A. S. Miller, geologist to the Idaho Experiment Station.—Dr. Alois Mrazek, privat docent for zoölogy in the Bohemian University at Prag.—Dr. Adolf Osterwalder, assistant in the vegetable physiological laboratory of the Agricultural Station at Wädensweil, Switzerland.—Dr. Pelikan, professor extraordinarius of mineralogy in the German University at Prag.—Dr. Hans Rebel, privat docent for zoölogy in the Vienna Agricultural School.—Dr. Bernard Schmid, privat docent for botany in the University of Tübingen.—Dr. L. S. Schultze, assistant in the zoölogical institute of the University of Jena.—Professor D'Arcy W. Thompson, of Dundee, member of the Fishery Board for Scotland.—Alexandro Trotter, assistant in the Padua Botanical Gardens.—Dr. Carl Freiherr von Tubeuf, director of the botanical laboratory in the Berlin Experiment Station.—Dr. Karl Wehmer, privat docent for mycology in the Hannover Technical School, titular professor.—Dr. Franz Werner, privat docent for zoölogy in the University of Vienna.—Dr. N. Wille, curator of the museum and herbarium of the University of Christiania.—Dr. A. Zalevski, privat docent for botany in the University of Lemberg.

Deaths: W. G. Atherstone, student of South African geology. — Charles E. Beddome, conchologist, at Hobartstown, Tasmania, September 1. — Dr. Sven Borgström, student of mosses, at Stockholm, May 13, 1898, aged 72. — Karl Fried. Wilh. Claus, professor of zoölogy at the University of Vienna, January 18, aged 63. — William Colchester, a collector of fossils, at Cambridge, England, in December, at an advanced age. — Achille Costa, professor of zoölogy in the University of Naples, in November. — Dr. Gottlieb Gluge, formerly professor of anatomy and physiology in the University of Brussels, aged 86. — Mr. Gilbert H. Hicks, first assistant botanist in the Department of Agriculture, Dec. 7, 1898. — Rev. Thomas Hincks, at Clifton, England, January 26. He was the author of valuable manuals of the British Hydroids and Polyzoa. — Professor Paul Kramer, the student of Acari, in Magdeburg, in November. — Dr. Hans C. Müller, ornithologist, at Thorshavn, Faroe Island, Dec. 24, 1897, aged 70. — Dr. Hermann Müller, privat docent for bacteriology in the University of Vienna, aged 32. — Dr. Karl Müller, the well-known bryologist of Halle, and editor of *Die Natur*, February 9, at the age of 80 years. — Paul Iéréoméïew, professor at the Institute of Mines, St. Petersburg, and member of the Imperial Academy. — Wilbur Wilson Thoburn, professor of bio-mechanics in the Leland Stanford University. — Emerich Vellay, the Hungarian entomologist, August 6. — Dr. Constantin Vousakis, professor of physiology in the University of Athens. — Anton W. Wiebke, ornithologist, of Hamburg. — Dr. G. Wolffhügel, professor of hygiene in the University of Göttingen.